

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.- 37. (CANCELLED)

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A miniaturized relay comprising:

a first condenser plate;

a second condenser plate facing said first condenser plate, in which said second plate is smaller than or equal to said first plate;

an intermediate space;

a conductive element arranged in said intermediate space, said conductive element being a detached part for movement freely along the intermediate space between a first end of said intermediate space, defining a first zone, and a second end of said intermediate space, defining a second zone, said movement depending on voltages present in said first and second condenser plates, where said first condenser plate is arranged in said first zone and said second condenser plate is arranged in said second zone;

a third condenser plate arranged in said second zone, in which said third condenser plate is smaller than or equal to said first condenser plate, and in which said second and third condenser plates are, together, larger than said first condenser plate; and

a first contact point of an electric circuit, a second contact point of said electric circuit, in which said first and second contact points define first stops,

wherein at least one of said first, second and third condenser plates induces a charge distribution in said conducting element that forces said conducting element to move along the intermediate space,

wherein, when said element contacts said first stops said conductive element closes said electric circuit, and

wherein a closing of the electric circuit is not affected by a voltage of the conductive element.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The relay according to claim 71, wherein said first contact point is in said second zone.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The relay according to claim 39, wherein said second contact point is in said second zone.

41. - 44. (CANCELLED)

45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The relay ~~Relay~~ according to claim 71, further comprising:

a second stop in said first zone.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A miniaturized relay comprising:

a first condenser plate;

a second condenser plate facing said first condenser plate, in which said second plate is smaller than or equal to said first plate;

an intermediate space;

a conductive element arranged in said intermediate space, said conductive element being a detached part for movement freely along the intermediate space between a first end of said intermediate space, defining a first zone, and a second end of said intermediate space, defining a second zone, said movement depending on voltages present in said first and second condenser plates, where said first condenser plate is arranged in said first zone and said second condenser plate is arranged in said second zone;

a third condenser plate arranged in said second zone, in which said third condenser plate is smaller than or equal to said first condenser plate, and in which said second and third condenser plates are, together, larger than said first condenser plate;

a first contact point of an electric circuit, a second contact point of said electric circuit, in which said first and second contact points define first stops, and upon said element contacting said first stops said conductive element closes said electric circuit;

a substrate that defines, with the first, second and third condenser plates and the first stops, the intermediate space, and conductive element's movement is in a direction perpendicular to the substrate; and

a third contact point arranged in said first zone, in which said third contact point defines a second stop, such that said conductive element closes a second electric circuit when in contact with said second contact point and said third contact point,

wherein said conductive element comprises a conductive element part which defines an axis, in the interior of which is housed said second contact point, and a flat part which protrudes from one side of said conductive element part and which extends in the direction of said axis, in which said flat part has a height, measured in the direction of said axis, which is less than a height of said cylindrical part measured in the direction of said axis.

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The relay according to claim 46, wherein said conductive element part being s a hollow cylindrical part.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The relay according to claim 46, wherein said conductive element part being a hollow parallelepipedic part.

49. - 70. (CANCELLED)

71. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The relay according to claim 38, further comprising a substrate that defines, with the first, second and third condenser plates and the first stops, the intermediate space, and conductive element's movement is in a direction perpendicular to the substrate.

72. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The relay according to claim 38, the closing of the electric circuit occurring even though the conductive element remains at a voltage in principle unknown since said conductive element being not in electrical contact with its surroundings when moving across said intermediate space.

73. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The relay according to claim 72, the conductive element being not in electrical contact with walls that define said intermediate space when moving across said intermediate space.

74. - 75. (CANCELLED)